

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR WESTERN WISCONSIN COUNTIES MAY 2003



In All Eight Western Counties, Unadjusted Unemployment Rates Decline in April

April Local Labor Scene

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the **La Crosse Metropolitan Area** increased to 4.1 percent in April, up 0.1 of a percentage point as compared to the revised March 2003 figure of four percent. However, the April 2003 rate declined by 0.4 percentage points as compared to the La Crosse Metro rate for April 2002.

The unadjusted unemployment rate for Western Wisconsin fell by 1.1 percent in April, plummeting to 5.3 percent. All eight Western Counties experienced declining unadjusted unemployment rates in April and seven of the eight counties declined by more than one full percent.

In the month of April, nonfarm employment increased by 3,000 workers in Western Wisconsin.

About 85 percent of that growth was jobs in service producing industries, just 15 percent was in the manufacturing or construction industries.

The Western Wisconsin unadjusted rate for April was 0.7 percentage points lower compared to last April. Unadjusted unemployment rates

were lower this April as compared to April 2002 in seven of eight Western Counties. Only in Crawford County were rates higher in April 2003. The count of unemployed individuals across the region fell by 900 over the course of the year. Nonfarm employment increased by 2,700 as compared to last April, 92 percent of that employment growth was employment in service producing industries.

Statewide

Wisconsin's unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted,

dropped to 5.4 percent in April from 5.5 percent in March. One year ago, Wisconsin's unemployment rate seasonally adjusted was 5.5 percent. The national seasonally adjusted rate increased from 5.8 percent in March to 6.0 percent in April.

Wisconsin's unadjusted rate was estimated at 5.8 percent in April. It had been 6.5 percent in March. One year ago in April, the state's unadjusted rate was 5.9 percent. The number of people estimated unemployed in the state dropped from 199,982 in March to 177,813 in April. The number reported to be employed rose to 2,896,644 in April. Each one-tenth of a percent drop in Wisconsin's unemployment rate lowers the number of unemployed by about 3,000.

The greatest seasonal increases were construction and the leisure & hospitality industry. Construction saw a 9,600 job increase from March, although the industry is still lagging where it was last year at this time. The leisure & hospitality industry gained 6,100 jobs over its March figure and is up about 1,300 jobs from last April. Manufacturing, which normally posts a slight increase in April, lost 1,100 jobs last month. The financial activities sector and the educational services and health services continue to do well, as they have over the past few years, bucking the general decrease in jobs seen in most sectors. Both of these industries are up over last year's figures, with financial activities up 3,400 jobs and educational and health services up 6,900 jobs. Retail trade employment is off to a slow start, with 310,000 jobs reported for April, up 2,600 jobs from the March 2003 figure and down from 310,700 last year.

Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)			
	La Crosse * MSA	Wisconsin (000s)	United States (000s)
Current month: April 2003			
Civilian Labor Force	76,600	3,091.9	146,473
Employment	73,400	2,925.9	137,687
Unemployment	3,100	166.0	8,786
Unemployment rate	4.1%	5.4%	6.0%
Change from one month ago			
Civilian Labor Force	800	-14.1	680
Employment	600	-9.2	339
Unemployment	0	-4.9	341
Unemployment rate	0.1%	-0.1%	0.2%
Change from one year ago			
Civilian Labor Force	1,700	62.2	1,710
Employment	1,900	63.6	1,491
Unemployment	-300	-1.5	219
Unemployment rate	-0.4%	-0.1%	0.1%
<i>Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.</i>			
<i>* La Crosse MSA Statistics include Houston County Minnesota</i>			

Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Area

April 2003	Buffalo	Crawford	Jackson	Juneau	Lacrosse	Monroe	Trempealeau	Vernon	Region	Non MSA*	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force**	7,740	10,370	12,000	11,030	64,770	21,070	16,200	14,530	157,700	92,930	3,074,460
Employed	7,340	9,680	11,340	9,960	62,160	20,050	15,180	13,680	149,390	87,230	2,896,640
Unemployed	400	690	660	1,060	2,620	1,020	1,020	850	8,310	5,700	177,810
Unemployment Rate	5.2%	6.7%	5.5%	9.6%	4.0%	4.8%	6.3%	5.9%	5.3%	6.1%	5.8%
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	5,000	7,700	8,400	9,100	69,800	18,100	13,500	8,500	140,000	70,200	2,765,100
Total Private	4,100	6,600	5,400	6,800	59,700	13,600	11,100	6,300	113,400	53,700	2,337,700
Goods Producing	400	1,600	1,600	2,500	11,500	4,100	5,600	1,100	28,500	16,900	627,200
Service Producing	4,600	6,100	6,800	6,600	58,200	14,000	7,800	7,400	111,500	53,300	2,137,900
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	150	250	800	250	2,500	520	270	210	5,000	2,400	112,600
Manufacturing	300	1,400	800	2,200	9,000	3,600	5,400	900	23,500	14,500	514,600
Trade	500	1,900	900	1,100	12,500	2,600	1,500	1,700	22,800	10,300	425,000
Transportation & Utilities	1,800	200	800	400	2,100	1,700	500	300	7,700	5,700	310,000
Financial Activities	160	200	230	240	3,500	600	340	370	5,600	2,100	155,700
Education and Health Services	600	1,100	600	1,200	12,600	1,700	1,100	1,500	20,300	7,700	362,500
Leisure & Hospitality	400	900	900	900	6,700	1,600	1,000	700	13,100	6,400	232,700
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	200	600	300	500	10,800	1,300	1,000	600	15,400	4,600	948,200
Total Government	940	1,160	3,030	2,260	10,080	4,460	2,400	2,230	26,600	16,500	427,400
Federal	180	70	70	260	540	2,200	130	110	3,550	3,010	28,800
State	20	200	460	570	2,610	240	30	30	4,160	1,550	103,800
Local	750	900	2,500	1,430	6,930	2,020	2,240	2,090	18,840	11,910	294,800
Change from one month ago	March 2003										
Civilian Labor Force**	180	-170	160	30	700	-50	-290	-50	500	-200	-7,800
Employed	270	-40	300	220	1,200	230	-30	120	2,300	1,100	14,400
Unemployed	-90	-140	-150	-200	-500	-270	-260	-170	-1,800	-1,300	-22,200
Unemployment rate(%)	-1.2	-1.1	-1.3	-1.8	-0.9	-1.3	-1.5	-1.1	-1.1	-1.3	-0.7
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	90	0	270	240	1,900	300	30	160	3,000	1,100	25,500
Percent change NFWS from last month	1.9%	-0.1%	3.3%	2.8%	2.8%	1.7%	0.2%	1.9%	2.2%	1.6%	0.9%
Total Private	60	0	300	200	1,500	300	50	130	2,500	1,000	24,000
Goods Producing	10	30	200	100	200	0	-80	30	500	300	8,900
Service Producing	90	-40	100	200	1,700	300	110	130	2,500	800	16,600
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	0	40	170	30	300	50	60	30	700	400	10,000
Manufacturing	0	-10	0	0	-100	-10	-150	0	-200	-100	-1,100
Trade	10	-110	0	0	500	80	60	40	600	100	2,600
Transportation & Utilities	0	10	0	0	0	20	-10	20	0	0	2,600
Financial Activities	0	0	0	0	0	-10	10	10	0	0	2,300
Education and Health Services	10	-20	0	0	100	10	0	0	100	0	-600
Leisure & Hospitality	30	70	60	100	200	140	90	30	700	500	6,100
Svcs	0	20	0	-10	600	20	-10	0	600	0	6,000
Total Government	40	-10	0	60	360	0	-20	30	500	100	1,500
Federal	20	0	10	0	90	30	0	0	200	100	-100
State	0	-10	10	0	90	0	0	0	100	0	900
Local	10	0	-20	60	180	-30	-20	30	200	0	700
Change from one year ago	April 2002										
Civilian Labor Force**	20	240	230	120	1,500	640	1,220	440	4,400	2,900	62,700
Employed	50	170	330	330	1,800	780	1,320	560	5,300	3,500	63,400
Unemployed	-30	70	-100	-200	-300	-140	-100	-130	-900	-600	-700
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.4	0.6	-0.9	-2.0	-0.5	-0.9	-1.1	-1.0	-0.7	-0.9	-0.1
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	-50	-20	80	120	1,000	410	980	190	2,700	1,700	-800
Percent change NFWS from last year	-0.9%	-0.2%	1.0%	1.3%	1.4%	2.3%	7.8%	2.3%	2.0%	2.5%	0.0%
Total Private	0	-50	0	200	1,400	700	700	100	3,000	1,700	0
Goods Producing	10	-260	0	-100	-100	200	400	0	200	200	-19,400
Service Producing	-60	240	100	200	1,000	300	600	100	2,500	1,500	18,600
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	0	10	-20	0	0	20	10	-20	0	0	-8,900
Manufacturing	10	-270	0	-100	0	140	390	60	200	200	-10,600
Trade	-20	-50	0	0	700	190	100	120	1,100	300	500
Transportation & Utilities	-10	20	0	40	-100	90	30	30	100	200	-700
Financial Activities	0	0	0	10	-100	20	20	10	0	100	3,400
Education and Health Services	-10	60	0	100	500	110	30	-10	800	300	6,900
Leisure & Hospitality	30	140	100	200	0	180	220	20	900	900	1,300
Svcs	-10	30	-100	0	300	-50	-90	-70	100	-300	17,500
Total Government	-50	30	80	-40	-390	-280	280	40	-300	100	-900
Federal	0	0	10	10	20	-110	0	0	-100	-100	-700
State	0	0	30	0	-40	-10	0	-10	0	0	-1,100
Local	-50	30	40	-50	-370	-160	270	50	-200	100	1,000

* Seven counties, excluding La Crosse County ** Includes participants residing in area. *** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted.
Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers. NFWS data is benchmarked to 3/2002

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi/>

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